

FORM B - BUILDING

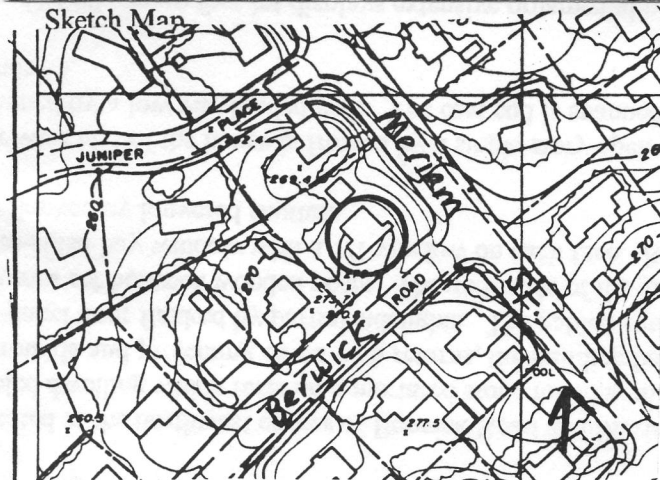
Assessor's number
63/65

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1036

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 12 Berwick Road

Historic Name Ernest & Charlotte Rowe House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1921

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim vinyl siding/wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage facing Meriam Street

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1980 - vinyl siding

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 16,000 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 2000

BUILDING FORM (12 Berwick Road)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the northwest corner of Berwick Road and Meriam Street, 12 Berwick Road is a 2 1/2-story, 3 x 2-bay, side-gabled dwelling which rests on a mortared stone foundation. With the exception of the wooden watertable, molded window surrounds and projecting eaves with returns, the building has been sheathed in vinyl siding. The center entrance contains a six-panel door flanked by partial sidelights. The gabled entrance porch displays a "distyle in antis" arrangement of two columns set between wooden posts. The underside of the gable is arched. Resting on the roof of the entrance porch is a three-sided bay window with a 1/1 window on each face. Remaining windows on the house consist primarily of 6/1 sash and are flanked by louvered shutters.

The west end of the house is fronted by a single-story open porch; the hip roof is supported by square posts which are spanned by a low vinyl-sided wall. The east end is spanned by a single-story, enclosed sunporch with continuous 2 x 2-light windows.

The 16,000 square foot lot displays extensive ornamental plantings. A wooden picket fence marks the streetline. To the east of the house, facing Meriam Street is a gablefront garage resting on a concrete foundation and sheathed in vinyl siding. There is a wide overhead door.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was constructed in 1921 for Ernest and Charlotte Rowe. The 1920 Lexington Valuation List indicates that Ernest H. Rowe was assessed for lot 53 in the Oakmount Park subdivision (initially laid out in 1903, Middlesex County South Plan Book 154, Plan 3). The following year, Ernest Rowe of Arlington was assessed for an unfinished house with a value of \$5000 on the same lot. In 1922 the value of the house was set at \$6000. Directories indicate that the house was initially known as 17 Berwick Road, was renumbered 21 Berwick Road in the late 1920s and remained that number until about 1935 when it became 12 Berwick Road. Directories indicate that Ernest Rowe was employed as a treasurer; he died prior to 1926 although Mrs. Rowe continued to live here for several years.

Later owners of the house included Alfred Adler in the 1930s and Charles and Martha Norris in the 1950s and 1960s. Stephen and Edeltraud Bradley purchased the house in 1970.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*